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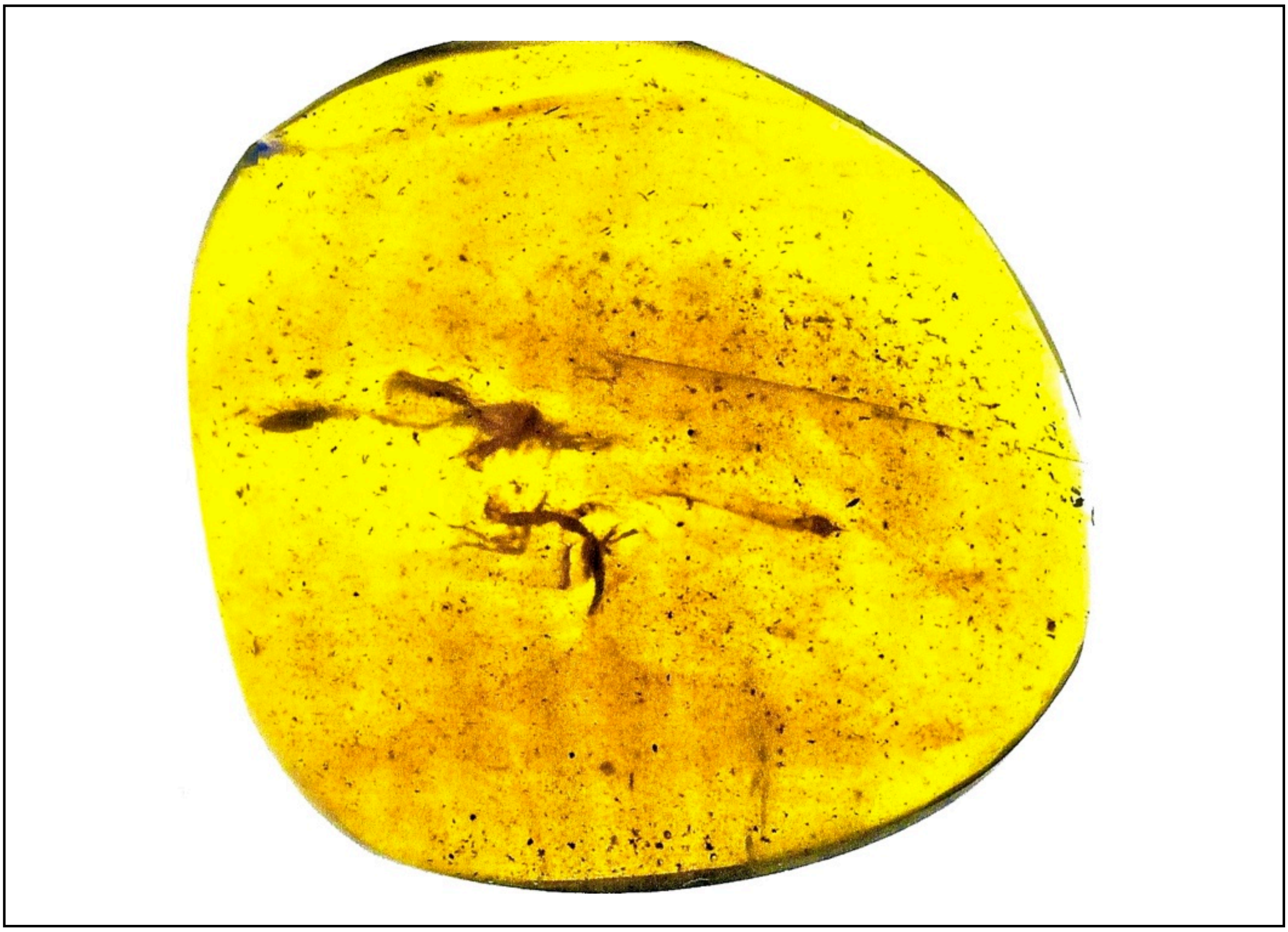

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# A second species of *Archaeoscorpiops* Lourenço, 2015 from Cretaceous Burmese amber (Scorpiones: Palaeoeuscorpiidae)

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Burmite.

**Abstract**. – The study of a new scorpion specimen from Cretaceous Burmese amber, known as Burmite, has led to the description of a new species which can be associated to the rare lineage of the family Palaeoeuscorpiidae Lourenço, 2003 and to the subfamily Archaeoscorpiopinae Lourenço, 2015. The description of this new species further substantiates the validity of Palaeoeuscorpiidae, Archaeoscorpiopinae and that of the genus *Archaeoscorpiops* Lourenço, 2015. The new species exhibits distinct characters, which strongly associate it to the genus *Archaeoscorpiops*. The discovery serves as another confirmation of the remarkable diversity present within the Burmite fauna.

Lourenço W. R. & Velten J., 2023. – A second species of *Archaeoscorpiops* Lourenço, 2015 from Cretaceous Burmese amber (Scorpiones: Palaeoeuscorpiidae). *Faunitaxys*, 11(57): 1 – 4.

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## Introduction

Since the ground-breaking description of the first scorpion trapped in Cretaceous Burmese amber by Lourenço (2002), the number of new taxa described from this type of amber knew an extraordinary progress (Lourenço, 2016a). Among the distinct defined lineages, some attested to be rather common, such as the families Palaeoburmesebuthidae Lourenço, 2015 and Chaerilobuthidae Lourenço & Beigel, 2011 while others remained elusive and rare. This was the case for the family Palaeoeuscorpiidae Lourenço, 2003 with the subfamily Archaeoscorpiopinae Lourenço, 2015 to which only three genera and three species were described, namely *Archaeoscorpiops cretacicus* Lourenço, 2015, *Burmesescorpiops groehni* Lourenço, 2016 and *Chaeriloscorpiops bautschi* Lourenço, 2020 (Lourenço, 2015, 2016b; Lourenço & Velten, 2020). In the present study a new species is described for the genus *Archaeoscorpiops*, adding further compelling evidence to support the validity of the subfamily and genus.

## Material and methods

The specimen investigated is preserved in a moderately clear piece of yellow to reddish-yellow resin measuring 21 x 20 x 2.5 mm. The scorpion representing the new species is not totally complete; it represents in fact an exuviae and some parts (the carapace, chelicerae and tergites) are destroyed or have been dislocated during the process of recovering by the resin. Despite these limitations, some characters are clearly visible and allow useful observations. The presence of a sort of dust or dirty prevents however, a complete observation of some regions such as the dorsal aspect of pedipalps. The schematic drawings provided are an interpretation based on observable features. Illustrations and measurements were produced with the aid of a Wild M5 stereomicroscope and a Leica microscope DMLB, both equipped with a drawing tube (camera Lucida) and an ocular micrometre. Measurements follow Stahnke (1970) and are given in mm. Trichobothrial notations are those of Vachon (1974). Other morphological terminologies mostly follow Hjelle (1990). Trichobothria are definitely recorded when their bothria (areoles) can be observed; nevertheless, some trichobothria can be deduced through the observation of thin hairs. Considering the morphologies of pedipalps and pectines the scorpion is probably a female; since the specimen is an exuviae, it probably represents a pre-adult or a juvenile.

## Taxonomic treatment

Family **Palaeoeuscorpiidae** Lourenço, 2003

Subfamily **Archaeoscorpiopinae** Lourenço, 2015

Genus ***Archaeoscorpiops*** Lourenço, 2015

***Archaeoscorpiops grossei*** Lourenço, 2023 **sp. n.**

(Fig. 1-9)

ZooBank: http://zoobank.org/33ABCC3C-419F-4F25-BA0A-8B17F9B673D0

**Holotype**. An exuvia of a possible juvenile or pre-adult. Sex cannot be clearly determined, however, based on the morphology of the pedipalps and pectines, the specimen exhibits characteristics typically associated with females.

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*Reviewer*: Eric Ythier (*BYG Taxa, France*) - ZooBank: http://zoobank.org/06FD0852-A88E-49E5-B8E6-E1494B86C4E1

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***Diagnosis for the new species***. – Total length 9.72 mm. General coloration yellow to dark yellow, with pedipalps reddish-yellow. Pectines moderate in size, narrow and slender with 13-13 teeth. Spiracles round to oval. Telson with a moderately long globular vesicle not flattened laterally; annular ring on the telson not observed. The general morphology of the pedipalps is similar to that of Scorpiopidae Kraepelin, 1905 and particularly of *Scorpiops* Peters, 1861; fixed and movable fingers with 7-8 rows of small rounded granules, with weakly marked accessory granules. Metasomal carinae weakly marked in all segments. Tarsi with short spinoid setae; tibial spurs absent. Apophysis on the internal aspect of the patella reduced. Trichobothrial pattern similar to type C (Vachon, 1974). Femur, with **d**, **e** and a poorly observable **i**. Patella with $\mathbf{d_1}$ and $\mathbf{d_2}$ on dorsal face and **i** in a middle position near to the apophysis; on the ventral face 4 **V** trichobothria can be observed, what clearly associates the new species to the genus *Archaeoscorpiops*. For chela-hand only ventro-external and internal aspects are observable with 4-5 **V**, 2-3 **Eb** and probably **Esb**; **it** and **ib** on internal aspect. 4-5 external trichobothria can be indirectly observed on the patella, but the presence of transverse hairs.

***Type locality and horizon***. – Myanmar (Burma), Kachin; precise locality unknown; Lower Cretaceous.

***Patronym***. – The specific name honors Museum Councilor Horst Grosse (1920-2001), former Director of the Natural History Museum 'Mauritianum' Altenburg (Thuringia, Germany) from 1954 to 1985.

***Depository***. – The type specimen is deposited in the Collections of the Natural History Museum 'Mauritianum' Altenburg (Thuringia, Germany).

## Description

***Coloration***. – The scorpion is yellow to dark yellow; metasomal segments I to V pale yellow; telson darker than metasomal segments; pedipalps and legs reddish-yellow; pectines yellow with reddish teeth.

***Morphology***. – Carapace, tergites and chelicera not observable. Sternum pentagonal, larger than high. Pectines moderate in size, elongate and narrow with 13-13 teeth. Sternites smooth with round to oval spiracles. Metasomal segment I to V without ventral carinae; segment V smooth; dorsal carinae of all segments not observable; setation on all segments moderately marked. Telson with a globular vesicle not flattened laterally; weakly granular to smooth; aculeus long and moderately curved; annular ring on the telson not observed; setation moderate to important. Pedipalp femur pentacarinate; patella with dorso-internal, ventro-internal, dorso-external and external carinae; internal face with some minor spinoid granules and a moderate to reduced apophysis. Chela with moderately to weakly marked carinae; all faces weakly granular. Fixed and movable fingers each with 7-8 rows of small rounded granules; only weak accessory granules are observable; extremity of each finger with one moderate spinoid granule; setation of pedipalps inconspicuous. Trichobothriotaxy recalling type C (Vachon, 1974) of extants Scorpiopidae (see diagnosis for details).

***Morphometric values*** (mm), holotype of *Archaeobuthus grossei* Lourenço, 2023 **sp. n.**

– ***Total length*** (including telson), 9.72
– ***Carapace*** (by extrapolation of empty space)
length, 1.17;
anterior width, 0.84;
posterior width, 1.34.
– ***Mesosoma***: length, 3.40.
– ***Metasomal segments***
**I**: length, 0.50; width, 0.74;
**II**: length, 0.60; width, 0.54;
**III**: length, 0.67; width, 0.54;
**IV**: length, 0.77; width, 0.54;
**V**: length, 1.27; width, 0.54.
– ***Telson***: length, 1.34; width, 0.50.
– ***Pedipalp***
femur length, 1.14, width 0.40;
patella length, 1.27, width 0.47;
chela length, 2.40, width 0.54;
movable finger length, 1.40.

## Conclusion

This finding adds to the growing list of new scorpion taxa discovered in this amber type, further highlighting its extraordinary significance for paleontological research. This discovery reinforces the validity of the subfamily Archaeoscorpiopinae and the genus *Archaeoscorpiops* within the family Palaeoeuscorpiidae. The presence of this new

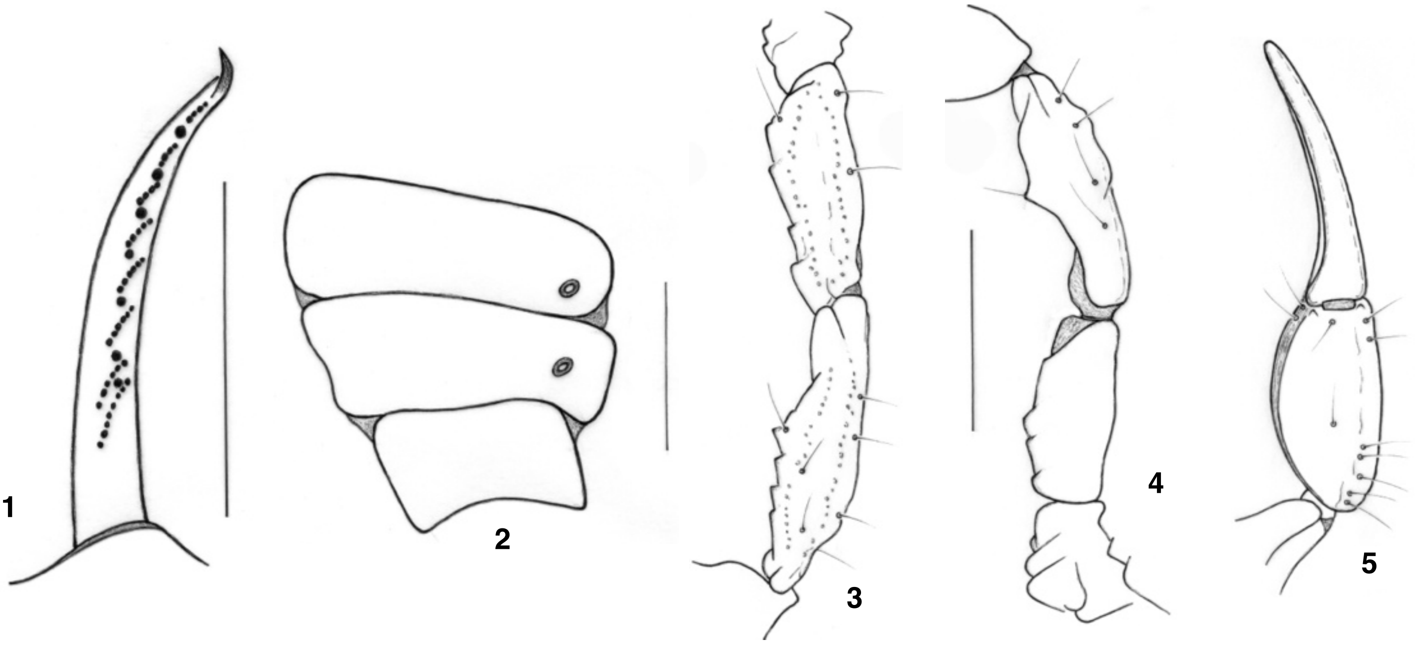

**Fig. 1-5**. *Archaeoscorpiops grossei* Lourenço, 2023 **sp. n.** (scale bar = 1 mm)

**1**. Cutting edge of fixed finger showing the series of granulations. **2**. Sternites V-VII with spiracles. **3-5**. Trichobothrial pattern. **3-4**. Femur and patella, dorsal and ventral aspects. **5**. Chela, ventral aspect.

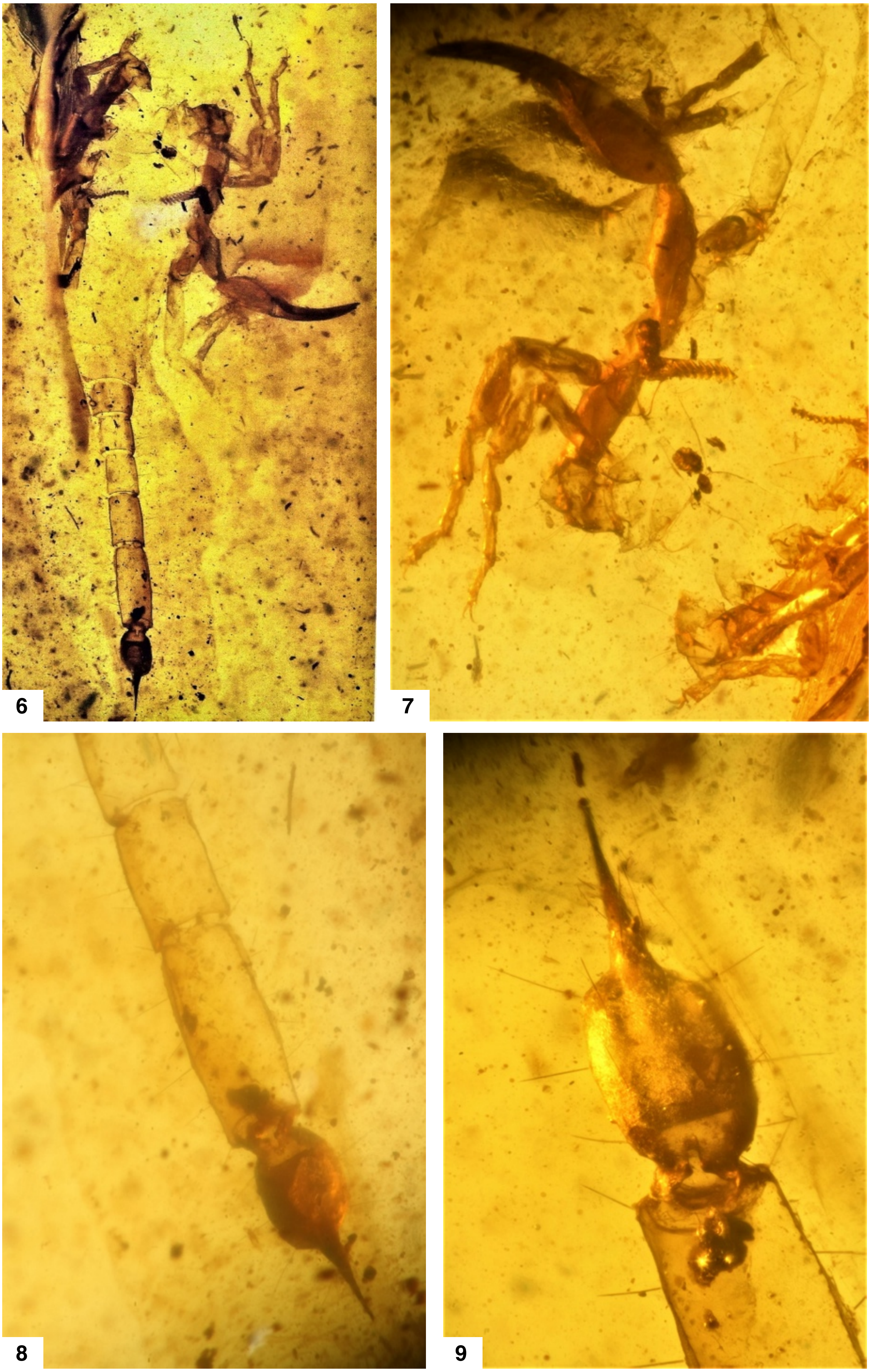

**Fig**. **6-9**. *Archaeoscorpiops grossei* Lourenço, 2023 **sp**. **n**.

**6**. Habitus, ventral aspect. **7**. Pedipalp and pectines, ventral aspect. **8**. Metasomal segments III-V and telson, ventral aspect. **9**. Telson in detail, ventral aspect, showing setation.

species also emphasizes the remarkable diversity present within the Burmese amber fauna, providing invaluable insights into the ancient scorpion fauna from the Cretaceous period.

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### *Authors contribution* [1]

*Publisher Correspondence*. – WL
*Writing the article*. – WL
*Description*. – WL
*Article proofreading*. – WL
*Bibliographic work*. – WL
*Material study*. – WL & JV
*Author of the figures*. – WL (Fig. 1-5) & JV (Fig. 6-9 & couverture)

[1] **WL** = Wilson R. Lourenço – **JV** = Jürgen Velten

## Résumé

Lourenço W. R. & Velten J., 2023. – Une deuxième espèce d'*Archaeoscorpiops* Lourenço, 2015 pour l'ambre de Myanmar (Scorpiones: Palaeoeuscorpiidae). *Faunitaxys*, 11(57): 1 – 4.

L'étude d'un nouveau spécimen de scorpion de l'ambre du Crétacé inférieur du Myanmar conduit à la description d'une nouvelle espèce pouvant être associée à la rare lignée de la famille des Palaeoeuscorpiidae Lourenço, 2003, ainsi qu'à la sous-famille des Archaeoscorpiopinae. Avec la découverte de ce nouvel élément, les validités de Palaeoeuscorpiidae, Archaeoscorpiopinae et celle du genre *Archaeoscorpiops* Lourenço, 2015 sont à nouveau confirmées. La nouvelle espèce présente plusieurs caractères qui l'associent d'avantage au genre *Archaeoscorpiops*. La découverte de ce nouvel élément confirme, une fois de plus, l'existence d'une importante diversité au sein de la faune de l'ambre Crétacé de Myanmar.

Mots-clés. – Scorpiones, Palaeoeuscorpiidae, *Archaeoscorpiops*, *grossei*, taxonomie, variabilité, nouvelle espèce, description, fossile, Ambre Birman.

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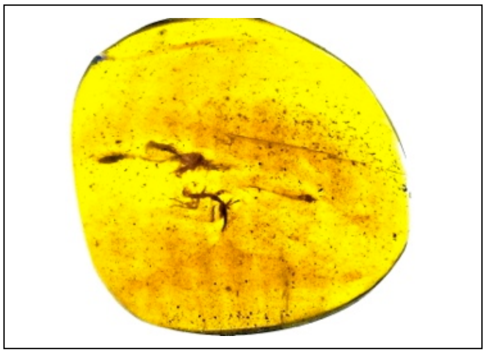

***Illustration de la couverture*** :

*Archaeoscorpiops grossei* Lourenço **sp**. **n**. Habitus, dorsal aspect in the stone (piece of amber).

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**Wilson R. Lourenço**: Fig. 1-5.
**Jürgen Velten**: Fig. 6-9 & couverture.

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